

AP / EPC

Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 030705-169

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
Peter Parani et al.) Group Art Unit: 2623
Application No.: 09/806,439) Examiner: VIKKRAM BALI
Filed: March 30, 2001) Confirmation No.: 1303
For: DEVICE FOR DETECTING)
FOREIGN SUBSTANCES IN A)
THREAD)
)

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated January 18, 2005, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims. The courteous interview conducted by Examiner Bali with Applicants' representative is noted with appreciation. The substance of that interview is set forth in the following remarks.

Claims 9-15 were rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112. With respect to claim 9, the Office Action states that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the recitation "said surface" in line 6. It is respectfully submitted that the antecedent basis for this recitation can be found in the preceding clause of the claim which recites "a hemisphere-shaped inner surface..." The recitation of "said surface" refers to this hemisphere-shaped inner surface.

With respect to claim 11, the Office Action refers to the recitation of "the axis of each of said openings", and notes that independent claim 9 recites the axis of symmetry through the center of the hemisphere. The Action questions what axis is